

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR ET SO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI LEADERS MEETING

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0555

1. RECENT OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI LEADERS. ACCORDING TO SOMALI COUNSELOR GARAD HERE, EPMG CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BANTE, FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO AND "SEVERAL OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS" MET AFTERNOON JAN 13 WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD, FONMIN ARTEH, AND MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI DEL TO THE SUMMIT. ON JAN 14 (POST SUMMIT), TEFER BANTE, PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN MAJ MENGESTU AND MAJ ATNAFU AND PMAC POLITICAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MAJ SISAY, MET WITH PRESIDENT SIAD, VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI OBOKOR, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MOHAMED SHEIKH AND ECON COMMITTEE MEMBER OSMAN MOHAMED JELLE. GARAD TERMED LATTER MEETING, WHICH INCLUDED A "FRIENDLY LUNCH", "A MEETING OF EPMG AND SRC MEMBERS." THE TWO MEETINGS TOTALLED 3 1/2 HRS.

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2. ACCORDING TO GARAD BILATERAL PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY CONFLICTING BORDER/TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, WERE DISCUSSED. GARAD, WHO LILE SOMALI AMBASSADOR HERE, DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETINGS, "GUESSES" THE CONFEREES ALSO DISCUSSED THE TFAI. UNFORTUNATELY, GARAD SAID, THE SOMALI DEL WAS PRESSED FOR TIME. ANOTHER MEETING HAS BEEN PLANNED AT SOME INDEFINITE FUTURE DATE.

3. RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT SOMALIA ONCE AGAIN RAISED PROPOSAL OF AN EAST AFRICAN CONFEDERATION. ETHIOPIANS ALLEGEDLY REFUSED TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL. GARAD FELL BACK ON EXCUSE THAT HE DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING AND SO "DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED."

4. ETHIOPIAN MOFA OFFICIAL IN AF-ME DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD LED TO NOTHING. ETHIOPIAN SIDE, HE SAID, HAD TRIED TO BE FORTHCOMING AND HAD REITERATED OFFERS OF JOINT ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI PROJECT IN THE OGADEN (DROUGHT RELIEF, AGRICULTURE, AND IRRIGATION SCHEMES, JOINT EXPLOITATION OF ANY MINERALS DISCOVERIES), ETC), BUT THE SOMALI SIDE REJECTED THEM. "WE KNOW," HE SAID, "THAT THE SOMALIS HAVE A STEADFAST PLAN, WHICH THEY ARE IMPLACABLY FOLLOWING, TO GAIN THE OGADEN, THEY WILL NEVER CHANGE."
HUMMEL

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